

NOT VOTING—9

Coats	Murkowski	Toomey
Flake	Perdue	
Graham	Reid	
Kaine	Sanders	

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 90, the nays are 1.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW VAIL THOMPSON

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I come to the floor to pay tribute to an American soldier who has given his last full measure of devotion to this Nation and to the noble pursuits of liberty and peace.

Twenty-eight-year-old SSG Matthew Vail Thompson grew up in Brookfield, WI, and was a proud member of the Army Special Forces. Tragically, on August 23, 2016, he became the second American this year to lose his life while on combat duty in Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Thompson was truly one of the finest among us. I had the honor of attending a memorial service for Matthew at his family's church in Brookfield, where hundreds of his friends and family members paid their final respects. They loved him, of course, but they also admired him. They told stories of a generous young man, adventurous, and always ready to make friends. His father spoke about and his pastor read us something Matthew wrote 10 years ago, a list of "all the little things" that make life sweeter. In effect, 10 rules to live by. It shows striking maturity, especially for a young man still in his teens when he and his best friend wrote the rules.

Now, the rules are actually quite deep, and there is an awful lot written, but I just want to read the 10 rules bullet points and just refer everybody to my Web site for the full rules and all he has written.

1. Never grow up.
2. Learn.
3. Never have any regrets.
4. Live for the moment.
5. Do what you love.
6. Pursue with a passion.
7. Never settle.
8. Always take time to listen and to talk.
9. Keep a positive attitude.
10. I need God and will live for Him.

His father gave an extraordinary eulogy about his son, and he asked the congregation at the very end—he hoped, the congregation would learn from what Matthew had written.

Matthew began college at Marquette University in Milwaukee. In paying tribute to Matthew, one of his fellow resident assistants said: "He was one of the best humans I ever knew." He transferred to Concordia University in California, where he earned a degree in theological studies and met his wife Rachel.

Rachel Thompson says Matthew was reluctant to date at first because of his plans to serve in the military. She said: "He knew he wanted to go into a really specialized, extremely dangerous job." His first thought was to spare her the possible pain.

That danger was real. Staff Sergeant Thompson served as a medic with America's elite forces in hazardous places. He was first deployed to Iraq and then to Afghanistan. The mission he and his unit were on was considered to be "noncombat"—advising Afghan forces on how to free their country from ongoing attacks by the Taliban, Islamic terrorists who seek to reimpose their oppressive rule. Their mission was noncombat in name only, but Staff Sergeant Thompson and his unit were patrolling "outside the wire." They were exposed to every danger. They were patrolling on foot, looking for improvised explosive devices left by an enemy that seeks to kill indiscriminately. One of those bombs went off, killing six Afghan soldiers, wounding another American soldier, and taking the life of Matthew—a courageous young man who was defending the liberties on which this Nation was founded, liberties our Founders said are the birthright of everyone on Earth.

For 240 years, our service men and women have defended those liberties, and they have paid a very high price. Since the Revolutionary War, more than 42 million men and women have served in our military, and more than 1 million of these heroes have died in that service. Staff Sergeant Matthews' home State has done its part. Since statehood, more than 27,000 of Wisconsin's sons and daughters have died in military service. Every one of us wishes they could have lived in peace, to fulfill their hopes and dreams, to enrich this country in ways we will never know. Every one of us is grateful that when freedom demanded such sacrifice, they stood on guard for America.

A nation's gratitude can scarcely comfort those who loved Matthew Thompson and who suffer his loss. His wife Rachel, his parents Mark and Linda, and his sisters Karen and Robyn—but also his extended family, his friends, and his band of brothers and sisters in the Army. Our hearts go out to them, and I pray they will find consolation and peace in fond memories, in spite of their loss.

But a Nation's gratitude, inadequate as it may be, is what Staff Sergeant Thompson is fully due. Rachel Thompson recounted her last conversation with her husband. Because she knew he was doing dangerous work, she said:

I was crying. I was afraid. And he would just listen and tell me he loved me and that it was going to be OK.

For America it will be OK, as long as men and women of the caliber and spirit of Staff Sergeant Thompson continue to stand on our behalf and in defense of our freedom.

May God bless and comfort Staff Sergeant Thompson's loved ones. May He watch over all those who answer our Nation's call. May God bless America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in honor of National POW/MIA Day, today I wish to pay tribute to our Nation's servicemembers who have been taken as prisoners of war, POWs, and those missing in action, MIA. I also pray for resolution for the military families who await answers about their loved ones and thank those who work to ensure that all our Nation's veterans are accounted for and their service is not forgotten.

A great source of pride and comfort in being an American is knowing that if we get in harm's way, strong and resourceful Americans stand with us. Unfortunately, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 and even 70-plus years have passed since some Americans have gone unaccounted for while serving our Nation, and they have yet to be returned home.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency reports that more than 83,000 Americans remain missing from World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Cold War, and the Gulf wars and other conflicts. This includes 333 Idahoans who have not been recovered following World War II and 25 Idahoans who remain unaccounted for who served in the Korean war. Additionally, eight Idahoans went missing while serving in the Vietnam war and remain missing: Capt. Jon K. Bodahl, Capt. Curtis R. Bohlscheid, CPT Gregg N. Hollinger, ENS Hal T. Hollingsworth, SSG William B. Hunt, 1LT William E. Lemmons, LT Roderick L. Mayer, and Warrant Officer Jon M. Sparks. Their names and service must be fixed in our national attention.

My heart hurts for the thousands of military families who have remained in limbo all these years. We can never forget their pain and the enduring service of all our service personnel who have not made it home. We must be resolute in our duty to bring them home. That is part of our responsibility as a nation to those Americans who have answered

the call of duty to defend our country and its interests.

As we pay tribute to POW/MIA families and veterans, we cannot lose sight of the ongoing price they bear for our freedoms and security.

WELCOMING THE MONGOLIAN DELEGATION TO PHILADELPHIA

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to welcome the visit of Mongolian President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj to Philadelphia on September 23, 2016. This is a truly historic occasion. President Elbegdorj's visit marks the beginning of an important chapter in the relationship between our two countries and between the people of Pennsylvania and the people of Mongolia. Despite the geographic distance between our countries, we have in common the pursuit of a healthy democratic system of governance and of stability and economic prosperity in the region.

I have no doubt that, during his visit, President Elbegdorj will be impressed with the city of Philadelphia, the musical talent of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the scholarship at the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia is a truly global city, and the people of Philadelphia are excellent cultural ambassadors. I am pleased to share with my colleagues that, in 2017, the Philadelphia Orchestra plans to embark on its tour of Asia, which will include an unprecedented visit to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

I want to convey my gratitude and appreciation for the Philadelphia Orchestra, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphians who are making this important visit possible. I want to express my best wishes to President Elbegdorj, Foreign Minister Tsend Munkh-Orgil, Ambassador Bulgaa Altangerel, and the rest of the delegation for a successful and productive visit to Philadelphia.

REMEMBERING JOE HOSTEEN KELLWOOD

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I wish to join the entire State of Arizona in mourning the passage of Joe Hosteen Kellwood this week. Joe, a decorated war hero, father, and grandfather, was a loyal servant and patriot of this country. It is with great respect that I commemorate the passing of this honorable man, who volunteered his life during one of the most trying times for our Nation.

Joe will be remembered as one of the legendary Navajo Code Talkers of World War II, who developed the only Allied code that the enemy was never able to decipher. Using their unique language skills, about 430 Native Americans turned the tide of battle against the Japanese, which military experts estimate shortened the war in the Pacific. Their bravery, resourcefulness, and tenacity in the line of duty remains a testament to their remarkable service.

During World War II, Joe was inspired by the brave acts of servicemen during the Battle of Guadalcanal. He then enlisted in 1942, telling his sister, "I'm going to war" to defend his nation. Shortly thereafter, he was selected for the Navajo Talkers' School at Camp Elliot in San Diego where he studied on his own at night and arduously memorized those codes. On his transport ship to Australia, where he would join the 1st Marine Regiment, Joe conducted a Navajo ritual for safe return. Although such rituals were not allowed under military rules, he secretly used a piece of gum mixed with corn pollen he had brought from home and spat the mixture into the ocean as he prayed to the Holy People. His faith gave him the confidence he needed.

Joe received numerous awards and honors including the Congressional Silver Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Action Ribbon, Naval Unit Commendation, Good Conduct, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and WWII Victory Medal for his heroic service.

After returning to the Navajo reservation, Joe returned to his trade as carpenter and lived for over 60 years in his same Sunnyslope home with his loving wife, Andrena, where they watched his 5 sons, 15 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren grow. He served as an inspiration for his fellow Navajo as a speaker at numerous events and sang the "Marine Corps Hymn" in his native language. Joe was a proud member of Veterans of Foreign Wars post 9400 and American Legion post 75 for many years.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the sacrifices of selfless patriots like Joe whose remarkable courage and patriotism will be long remembered by his country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING GRIFFIN DALIANIS

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I recognize the extraordinary life of a dear friend and champion of veterans' rights, Griffin "Griff" Dalianis.

Griff served with the 1st Special Operations Group of the Strategic Air Command in the U.S. Air Force from 1961 to 1965. His service here may have influenced his work later in life—Griff was well known and loved in his community for his tireless work on behalf of his fellow veterans. After his service, Griff Dalianis earned his bachelor's degree in history and psychology from Suffolk University in Boston, followed by a master's degree of education. He then earned a certificate in advanced graduate study in counseling from Northeastern University in 1975 and earned his doctorate of philosophy from California Western University in 1982.

The next several years of Griff's life show a man who was deeply dedicated to serving others. In addition to found-

ing Southern New Hampshire Family Counseling Associates in 1975 and serving as an instructor of psychology at Rivier College in Nashua, Griff became an active and respected member of the Nashua community. He was affiliated with numerous Nashua groups, including the Nashua Rotary Club, the Nashua Youth Council, Nashua Planning Board, and Nashua Chamber of Commerce.

Griff Dalianis's advocacy on behalf of his fellow veterans was unparalleled. In addition to serving as chairman of the State Veterans Advisory Committee, chairman of the U.S. Veterans Administration Committee on Rehabilitation, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, and receiving a Distinguished Service Medal, Griff worked with Harbor Homes, an organization in New Hampshire that provides transitional housing for homeless veterans. An apartment house Griff worked to establish with Harbor Homes was named after him. As a result of his efforts, approximately 40 veterans at risk of homelessness now have homes. Griff even had a weekly column in the Nashua Telegraph called "Ask the Commander."

Griff leaves behind his wife, New Hampshire Supreme Court Chief Justice Linda Stewart Dalianis, daughters Deborah A. Bischoff and Cynthia E. Godfrey, sons Matthew Dalianis and Benjamin Dalianis, grandchildren Allison Bischoff and Mariah Willis, and many other family members and loved ones. We are all deeply saddened by the loss of such an influential and exemplary member of Nashua's community and dear friend to so many.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Chief Justice Linda Dalianis and her family during this difficult time. Griff's legacy of service and advocacy will live on in Nashua and across New Hampshire, and we are forever grateful that he called our great State home.●

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL EDWARD H. JOSEPHSON

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the exceptional service and the extraordinary life of a dear friend and champion for veterans, Lt. Col. Edward "Ed" H. Josephson, U.S. Air Force retired.

Born in Syracuse, NY, on February 21, 1938, to Edward Josephson and Kathleen Beatrice, the family soon returned to Concord, NH, where Ed grew up. At an early age, he enjoyed hunting and fishing, his paper route, and visiting the New Hampshire Historical Building. Joining the New Hampshire Civil Air Patrol, Ed quickly encourage his love for flying, and during his senior year at Concord High School, he learned of the new U.S. Air Force Academy, which would be accepting candidates for its first graduating class.

Ed wrote a letter to Congressman Perkins Bass and, soon after, received a letter stating he had been nominated